August 2014

Important Dates

August 19 — HSC Art and Industrial Technology showcase evening
September 17 - Year 12 Graduation Evening 7:00pm
September 18 - Year 12 Formal Panorama House

Inside This Issue

Principal’s Report
Deputy’s Reports
Talent Quest
Leadership Camp
CBC Book of the Year
Athletics Carnival
UWS Chemistry Day

Jeans for Genes Day

On the 8th of August, the SRC organised a ‘Jeans for Genes Day’ event.
With the help of students, teachers and the school community the day was a success. This positive experience will hopefully benefit thousands of children with genetic disorders and help them live a fulfilling life. Here at Robert Townson we strive, and will continue to strive, for a better and healthier community, one pair of genes* at a time.

*Not a spelling mistake, but an hilarious pun!

Celina & Emilia
I have welcomed three new members of staff this term. Ms Hernandez (science/physics), Ms Davies (English) and Mrs Sheringham (Head Teacher Learning and Engagement). We have also welcomed a new permanent counsellor Ms Kate Plumb (we have been without one for six years), a new Head Teacher Mathematics (two years) and a Head Teacher English. We have be very fortunate in that we have had good teachers who have been able to act in the role however now they will be able to return to the roles they have been employed to perform adding more strength to their respective departments.

This year ends our 3 year planning cycle and the beginning of a process of evaluation and new priorities. During our last planning cycle we based our planning decisions on student underperformance. During this new cycle I have employed a company to produce an anonymous survey for every teacher student and parent/guardian. The goal is to ask YOU what works or areas for improvement and allocate our resources accordingly. The survey data goes into this companies’ database and they produce graphs and tables that will summarise your answers and compared: teacher, student and parent responses. There is no way to find out who said what. You will receive notification via a letter, SMS and the school Facebook site. I understand you will be provided with a unique identifier or user name so each person will only get one say. I am unsure of the length and style of questions but the company - “Tell Them From Me”, is highly valued for its integrity and value. I hope that every person has a say in their schools direction. Thank you to all the parents who said hello at Parent Teacher night. Sadly the number of parents attending seems to be falling each year. I will look at ways we may be able to increase this for next year.

Please log onto the survey site www.tellthemfromme.com

User name:  robert123
Password:  parents321

Warren Parkes
Principal
Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 7, 9, 11)

In this month’s letter I would like to take the time to commend parents and students that bring such credit to the community. At our recent Parent/Teacher night I had the opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses in mathematics for a number of students. All parents were keen to see how well their child had performed but also interested in how to continue to improve their understanding.

This great group of students I have the pleasure to teach have abundant talents and skills. They include musical talent, a variety of sporting talents, Cadet participation, successful part time employment, community and charitable support groups. As I learn more about my students I gain increasing respect for them and their parents. I get great joy from my teaching colleagues adding to the knowledge base of these young people.

Often the media portray young people in a negative way and this is not the manner in which the vast majority react within the community. I am pleased and proud to be an educator and the school will continue to support the growth of these fine students.

Have a great term everybody.

Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 8, 10, 12)

From the Deputy Principal....

Great news about the Volunteer and Trainee Trades Team (2013)! They were among the many partners that teamed up under the First Appin Scouts banner to help create a streetscape and infrastructure in Burke Street, Appin. This project focused on litter reduction as part of a Keep Australia Beautiful grant. We received a Highly Commended “Young Legends” Award from the NSW Sustainable Cities Competition out of three finalists in this category. Congratulations to our students for the great contribution and effort to this project.

Year 10 students participated in Work Experience this term with a great range of occupations being trialled among them. The dates for this Work Experience week were between August 4th to 8th. Some students have been keen enough to organise more than one type of work experience to maximise their chances of trying out different jobs.

We also have several students in Year 10 attending TAFE this term as part of co-enrolments between TAFE and school. This forms part of their school-to-work transition in pre-employment courses that usually include Certificate III competencies. We wish these students the very best as they prepare for the possible next step as apprentices or trainees.

Year 12 have completed their Trial Exams and are still busy studying and preparing for final subject assessments. We are preparing them for the end-of-term celebrations (graduation and farewell) so that these special times are approached in a safe and enjoyable manner.

Mrs K. Chapman
Deputy Principal
Talent Quest
The annual talent quest was held on Wednesday the 18th of June. It was organised by the Senior Leaders and the Student Representative Council with assistance from Mrs Gowdy, Mrs Griffith and Mr Kapitanow.
The 2014 talent quest was a huge success. Almost 100% of students attended the event with the school hall filled to capacity in both the junior and senior performances.
Performances included:
• A terrific Tahitian dance squad routine (Matthew Paese, Marama Marsters, Julia Kelekolio, Makare Greig-Williams, Veeshayne Graff, Michelle Meafua & Gabrielle Ahmu).
• Great solo singing performances by Zoilathalia Fernandez and Gabrielle Ahmu.
• A highly entertaining comedy act by Kristian Hollist.
• Fantastic duo singing /guitar performances by Aaliyah Campos, Oscar Chong-Nee, Tukaha Kyriacou, Sandra Capote and Bailey Dymitriw.
• Pianist extraordinaire Joshua Virgona
• A great instrumental act by Aaron Dalton and Sandy Barrett
• Excellent solo guitar performance by Jacob Stark
• Highly entertaining singing act by ‘Mr Ramos and Men’ (Ken McGuinnes, Krishneel Kumar, Matthew Cueva, Vishanthan Sivatragasam, Levi McGuire Wood, Francios
• Al Ali, Danya Enele, Taikaora Whaanga, Jonathon Grieg Williams, Irishaad Kirsten, Tulagomanu Salanaoa, Samuel Aza, Diamond Chong nee, Santos Fasia, Joshua Thomson, Shelton Onesemo and Allan Haddad)
• A fantastic performance by the band These Dying Memories (Bryan Pakulski, Jacob McGregor and Aaron Dalton).
• And last but not least, the amazingly talented magician Mr Kelava.

The event was also excellently hosted by our vice-captains Rebecca Fowell and Cameron Rodgers.

The judges (Ms Taylor, Mrs Giles, Mrs Townsend and Mr Swindle) found it incredibly hard determining who should be crowned Talent Quest champion for 2014. The place getters this year were:
2014 champions and 1st place – Sandra Capote and Bailey Dymitriw
Equal 2nd place – These Dying Memories & Mr Kelava

Congratulations to all the performers who put on a magnificent show for the school.
A big thank you must also go to all the Senior Leaders and SRC members who did a wonderful job running the event. Gold coin donations totalled $650. The money will be put towards a school project benefitting all students at Robert Townson High.
Leadership Camp
Another exciting event occurred at the end of term 2. Twenty five students went to a student leadership camp at Teen Ranch held on the 23rd and 24th June. At the camp students participated in leadership workshops led by Mr Parkes, Mr Essex and Ms Beeten. At these workshops they had opportunities to reflect on their own skills while learning about different leadership styles. Year 11 students focused on what it meant to become a senior leader while SRC members considered their important roles at school. All students were also able to participate in outdoor team building activities. This included a challenge course, abseiling, bush skills and high ropes. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were encouraged to learn what their own special gifts are as leaders.
Attention will now turn towards the induction of new 2014-15 Senior Leaders. There will also be an election of new Captains and Vice-Captains. Year 11 students who have completed the Leadership Program, now have the opportunity to submit a Senior Leaders nomination form. Once approved, they can choose to stand as a candidate for Captains or Vice-Captains positions.
I am also very much aware that Year 12 students only have a few weeks left before sitting their final HSC examinations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Senior Leaders, Captains, Vice Captains and School Ambassador. The team of 2013-14 has worked incredibly well together. They have enhanced our school community by making students and staff aware of serious issues affecting society today and the importance of considering people less fortunate than ourselves. In doing this they raised money for important causes such as the Red Cross Bush Fire Appeal and the Melanoma Institute of Australia. The team also contributed to a cohesive school by organising events (like the Talent Quest) which brought students together. They provided students with a chance to show their talents before a school audience and were keen to help pass on their experiences and training to future RHS leaders. It has been a pleasure leading the following Senior Leaders of 2013-14 and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours:
Khalid Al-Najjar (Captain), Geraldine Borland, Nicole Bowden, Emma Costello, Janice Crouch, Alisha Douglas, Shamieka Dubois (Captain), Rebecca Fowell (Vice-Captain), Manal Hallal, Melissa Holt (School Ambassador), Shontelle Hourigan, Matthew Hudson, Grant Lewis, Jessica Mavroidis, Cameron Rodgers (Vice Captain) & Ryan Roumiah.

Congratulations to our Senior Leaders, Captains, Vice-Captains & Ambassador for 2015 are: Luke Blayden (Captain), Ayden Brown, Emilia Bulloch, Bailey Dymitrik (Vice-Caption) Jade Dymitriw (School Ambassador), Jessica Fryer, Kareem Metlej, Taylah Middleton, Webb Neggo (Vice-Captain), Caitlain Ramondetta (Captain), Celina Touma, Melanie Walton & Montana Wink.

Mr M Kapitanow
Book Week 2014

Saturday August 16th to Friday 22nd August

Connect to Reading ~ Reading to Connect
This year’s slogan, Connect to Reading is about enjoying the experience of exploring story, and travelling to other worlds.
The reflected slogan, Reading to Connect, has a broader social meaning, suggesting that reading assists in creating a bond with others. Within the world of the contemporary child, this is also relevant as they read books and they read to connect through a variety of media.
This year’s winners have were announced at 12 noon Friday 15th August.

Winner of Book of the Year:
 Older Readers

Honour Books:
 Older Readers

Winner Younger Readers:

Honour Book

Winner: Picture Book of the Year

The full results can be seen at; http://cbca.org.au/
It was all go forward at Campbelltown sports stadium beginning on the 21st of July 2014 with Zone participants taking stage, showing great skill and determination.

There was a variety of track and field events including hurdles, javelin, 800m, high jump long jump as well as many others. The schools that participated in these events were Robert Townson, Picton, Thomas Reddall, Mount Annan, Elizabeth Macarthur, Elderslie and Camden. The participants who made it to Regionals were Rachelle Chavolla (Girls 12 Shot Put), Isaam Merhi (Boys 13 100m & 200 m), Bailey McParland (Boys 14 100m & 200m), Anees Davids (Boys 14 Long Jump), Micheal Prasad (Boys 14 Shot Put), Adam Filton (Boys 15 High Jump), Kenny McGuiness (Boys 16 Javelin), Larry Greg-Williams (Boys 17 High Jump & 800m), Tai whaanga (Boys 17 Javelin) and 14 year boys relay team (William Louis, Micheal Prasad, Isaam Merhi and Bailey McParland. Elderslie High won the competition and Robert Townson came 6th out of 8 schools.
FROM THE WELLBEING/WELFARE/SUPPORT DESKS...
Ensure the school office has all up to date medical and contact details for your child/ward. It is so important that we can contact parents/carers in an emergency.

Campbelltown Region Measles Vaccination Program
There has been a growing number of adolescents and young adults diagnosed with measles. Those who have missed one of the routine measles vaccinations as an infant are at risk. Two doses of measles vaccine provides lifelong immunity, so NSW Health provided a whole school catch up program on 14th August 2014.

Scoliosis Checks for Girls in Year 7 and 9
Girls in Years 7 & 9 have received a pamphlet describing how to check for curvature of the spine. Parents and carers should take the time to check their daughter's spine by doing the forward bend test. Visit the website for further information at www.scoliosis-australia.org.

Mid Week Activities
Every Wednesday during rollcall for 6 weeks in Term 3 all students are doing “mid week activities” which increase resilience to cope with life’s challenges and can be used to improve their mental wellbeing.

Last week the focus was on anger...anger is normal, natural and a useful emotion. Anger is heightened mental and physical arousal called ‘flight’ or ‘fight’ response – our body is preparing us to deal with or flee from, something that is perceived as a threat.

Students discussed effective = state how you feel calmly, etc and ineffective = throw things, violence, scream, etc ways of dealing with angry feelings.

Next week students are discussing negative thoughts and how our thoughts affect our feelings. Often adolescents can be very negative and have unhelpful thoughts. Changing how adolescents think can change the way they feel. We can change our thoughts by using more positive self-talk.

School Immunisation Program for Year 7 & 9 students
Ensure your child/ward receives all vaccines. All doses must be administered for the vaccines to work.
Final date for immunisations are:

18/11/14 HPV (Yr 7) + Varicella (Yr 7) + HPV (Yr 9 boys only)

Till next time,
Mrs Sally Willmott

--------------------------------------------------

Illness

If your child is ill please keep them at home until they recover. Sending a sick child to school only prolongs their illness and adds to their distress. There is also the strong chance of infecting others. There are many students suffering from ‘flu-like illnesses at present and it is spreading because not all sick students are staying at home.

Please keep your sick children at home until they are fully recovered to prevent the spread of illness and speed recovery.
My name is Rebekah De Matos. On Monday the 28th of July I participated in secretary for a day. Not only was I one of the four students to be selected and attend the event, but I also got to meet and shadow the secretary of the Board of Education. While visiting other schools and attending celebrations of education week, myself and the other students, had the chance to shadow and share our opinions with Head of Education. We were guided through how he works and what his job includes. He showed us how other schools are run and asked us how we think we can make our schools a better environment, and showed us different techniques on learning inside and outside of the class room. It was a great experience to participate in the event and to represent Robert Townson High School.

Rebekah De Matos Year 10

---

Our French Exchange Student

Tiphaine came on a 6 week exchange program to Australia. She was living with Cheyanne Love and attended our school for 4 weeks, the last two weeks of term 2 and the first two weeks of term 3. Tiphaine’s first impression of Robert Townson High School was that is a large school and the students are really nice. Tiphaine chose to come to Australia because she wanted to learn more English and to discover another culture. She enjoyed being here and had a marvellous time seeing the sights of Sydney. She had fun staying with Cheyanne and coming to our school as she was completely adored by all the students here at school. We hope she comes back to visit us again as we all had a fantastic time. We miss you Tiphaine.

By Brittany Harrison
TAS Faculty

Pictured here are a few examples of the excellent work being produced by the Preliminary or year 11 Industrial Technology Timber Products and Furniture Technologies class. Kurt Smidt, Chandler Millington-Caroll, Taikaora Whaanga, Benjamin Pershouse, Danya Enele, Callum Hood and Matthew Cueva. These Bandsaw boxes are only a selection from a class of 19 students who diligently researched, designed and produced these great projects. I look forward to the folio and major projects this group of talented

Science Faculty

Science News

Year 10 Research Projects
During week 6 of the term commencing from the 11th of August, all Year 10 science students have been given a research project booklet. These booklets are to be taken home and signed by the Year 10 student and parent or guardian.
All students in NSW High Schools are required to do a research task as part of the Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) Science Course.
The research project requires students to undertake a scientific investigation of their choice. The project will go for a total of 4 weeks with students doing almost all of the work at home. The final project is due on the 8th of September, though students are required to show their teachers their research project log books at the beginning of every week until the final due
UWS Chemistry Day
Fancy a glass of Gatorade to replace essential electrolytes in the body. Well maybe you would like to know just how much sodium is in Gatorade. If the answer is yes then just ask one of our HSC chemistry students who will be able to answer the question for you (without reading the nutritional information label on the bottle of course, anyone can do that).
On the 16th of June our HSC chemistry students attended the UWS campus in Parramatta. The day comprised of two practical activities reinforcing their knowledge and understanding in chemistry. They also got a glimpse of real scientists at work using some expensive equipment that is unavailable to schools. The students used an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS for short) to analyse exactly how much sodium is in a bottle of Gatorade.
Secondly our students had to find out how much sulphate is in fertiliser which is one of the HSC mandatory practical tasks. Basically they started by dissolving the fertiliser and then reacting it with barium chloride forming a precipitate of barium sulphate. They then......... Ohhh I won’t bore you with any more details suffice to say they completed it successfully.
Overall the day was both enjoyable and educationally informative; no doubt we’ll be back again next year.
Mr Sakic
HT Science
News from HIU Faculty

Recently, we published our HIU newsletter that covers all the information about what has been happening in our faculty and important information about the community, events for young deaf and hard of hearing children. This is a third newsletter that has been published and you can have a look at it on our RTHS website.

This issue theme is about captions. We have some of our HIU students using live captioning sessions in their class during lessons. We’ve been using captioned DVDs, captioned You Tube videos, ABC iView programs and news programs that have captions as well. People say captioned shows are only for people who cannot hear which isn’t true. Studies have shown emergent readers who uses captioned television shows are more likely to improve their literacy and comprehension skills. It is not only for deaf or hard of hearing people to use it, people who have English as their second language, reluctant readers, any students, adults are also useful for them.

Have a go using Captions on your television or turn the English subtitles on when watching a DVD! The next issue will be coming out in December 2014 and don’t forget to have a look at our newsletter on RTHS website! Happy reading!
Kids College pre-school Mural

During Work Experience this term, nine year 10 students devoted their time to design and paint a mural around the fence of Kids College in St. Andrews to brighten it for the students there. Congratulations to Patrick Bornay, Kylie Mounsey, Lashanna Reyes, Ra’ees Kruyer, Katelyn Jurd, Rebekah de Matos, Hollie Mottershead, Sara Brophy and Sophie Kuru. Special thanks also to Sandra Wassell for enabling this to happen.

Mrs James

Head Teacher Creative & Performing Arts
### School Calendar

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR TERM 3 – 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Belvoir theatre workshop - Yr 10 &amp; 11 Drama</td>
<td>28 Belvoir Theatre Excursion – Yr 10 &amp; 11 Drama</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 Society and Culture &amp; Visual Arts Nan Tien Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10B</td>
<td>15 Yr 9 Peer Leaders – Teen Ranch</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 Yr 12 Graduation Evening 7pm</td>
<td>18 Yr 12 Formal Panorama House</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Student drop-off and pick-up

When dropping students to school or picking them up please be mindful of parking restrictions. A few cars have been parking across the driveway into the school parking lot which prevents school employees from entering and leaving the car park safely.

The high school car park on Shuttleworth Avenue only has one entrance/exit. The lower entrance only accesses the primary school car park, which is not used by high school staff. Shuttleworth Avenue is narrow and becomes very congested, and the situation is at times unsafe because of people ignoring parking restrictions.

There is ample parking in Thunderbolt Drive and a crossing supervisor to ensure all students cross the road safely.
The Public Education Foundation have opened a number of scholarships for students in public education. Our scholarships are about focusing on the different kinds of support and encouragement that individual students need.

On average the Public Education Foundation’s scholarships provide students with payment of approximately $3000 to be used for educational purposes. Please ensure you read the information pack, selection criteria and terms & conditions to find out what each scholarship provides.

The Medich Foundation Elizabeth H Blackburn Scholarship is for outstanding year eleven or twelve students in Western or South Western Sydney interested in pursuing a career in medical science.

The Unions NSW Metropolitan Scholarship and the Unions NSW Rural and Regional Scholarship support outstanding NSW public school students with an interest in unionism and social justice.

The Harding & Miller Foundation Scholarship supports students in early high school to help them achieve their potential.

The First Seeds Scholarship provides financial support to a senior high school student in taking their first steps towards developing a successful career.

The Mamma Lena and Dino Gustin Foundation Scholarship encourages students to pursue the study of Italian language, providing winners with a six-week intensive Italian language course in Rome.

The Walter and Eliza Hall Trust Opportunity Scholarship provides support to students with a physical disability to make the transition from high school to tertiary study.

The Trades & Technology Opportunity Scholarship provides financial support through years eleven and twelve to a student interested in a career in trades or technology.

The Malala Yousafzai Scholarship supports hard working students in the middle years of secondary school who have a strong belief in the power of education to change lives.

The Friends of Zainab Scholarship helps support year eleven and twelve refugee students through the critical years of their High School Certificate and also provides financial assistance for a student’s first two years of full time study.

The Australian Science Olympiad Summer School Scholarship provides support for eligible students to attend the prestigious Australian Science Olympiad Summer School.

The Patricia Long Conservatorium High School Scholarship supports a young talented musician in financial need who is attending or enrolling at the Conservatorium High School.

The Earmo Scholarship for Music assists a talented musician commencing study at the Conservatorium High School.

The J Holden Family Trust Scholarships provide support for students commencing at the Conservatorium High School in 2015.

www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au/scholarships